U.S. Application No. 10/522,477

Attorney Docket No. 07040.0211-00000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-47. (canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A tyre for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

at least one structural element made of a crosslinked elastomeric material:

wherein the crosslinked elastomeric material comprises an elastomeric

composition, and

wherein the elastomeric composition comprises:

- (a) at least one diene elastomeric polymer:
- (b) at least one paraffin wax; and
- (c) at least one polymer of at least one C₃-C₂₄ α-olefin; and

wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight not higher than 10,00; and

wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a degree of branching:

from 1 mol % to 20 mol % of methyl groups, relative to the total number of carbon atoms; and

from 80 mol % to 99 mol % of methylene groups, relative to the total number of carbon atoms.

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49. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, comprising:

a carcass structure:

a belt structure applied in a circumferentially external position relative to the carcass structure;

a tread band superimposed circumferentially on the belt structure; and a pair of sidewalls applied laterally on opposite sides relative to the carcass structure:

wherein the carcass structure comprises at least one carcass ply shaped in a toroidal configuration.

wherein opposite lateral edges of the at least one carcass ply are associated with respective bead wires,

wherein each bead wire is enclosed in a respective bead. wherein the belt structure comprises at least one belt strip, and wherein the pair of sidewalls is formed by the elastomeric composition.

- 50. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) is a polymer of at least one C₅-C₁₈ α-olefin.
- 51. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight not higher than about 5,000.
- 52. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight not higher than about 3.000.

- 53. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight of at least about 300.
- 54. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight of at least about 400.
- 55. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight of at least about 500.
- 56. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a polydispersity value of at least about 2.
- 57. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a polydispersity value not higher than about 20.
- 58. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a polydispersity value not higher than about 12.
- 59. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a melting point or a softening point of at least about 30° C.

- 60. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a melting point or a softening point not higher than about 120° C.
 - 61. (Cancelled).
- 62. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has the following degree of branching: from 2 mol% to 10 mol% of methyl groups with respect to a total number of carbon atoms.
 - 63. (Cancelled).
- 64. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has the following degree of branching: from 90 mol% to 95 mol% of methylene groups (secondary carbon atoms) with respect to a total number of carbon atoms.
- 65. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has the following degree of branching: from 1 mol% to 20 mol% of tertiary carbon atoms with respect to a total number of carbon atoms.
- 66. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has the following degree of branching: from 2 mol% to 10 mol% of tertiary carbon atoms with respect to a total number of carbon atoms.

67. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has the following degree of branching: from 0 mol% to 2 mol% of quaternary carbon atoms with respect to a total number of carbon atoms.

68. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has the following degree of branching: from 0 mol% to 1 mol% of quaternary carbon atoms with respect to a total number of carbon atoms.

69. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a crystallinity degree of from 30% to 99%.

70. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a crystallinity degree of from 50% to 90%.

71. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) is saturated or unsaturated and comprise cyclic moieties.

72. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) comprises cyclic moieties.

- 73. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) is present in the elastomeric composition in an amount of from 0.1%-by-weight to 10%-by-weight with respect to a weight of the at least one paraffin wax (b).
- 74. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one polymer (c) is present in the elastomeric composition in an amount of from 0.5%-by-weight to 5%-by-weight with respect to a weight of the at least one paraffin wax (b).
- 75. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one paraffin wax (b) comprises linear saturated hydrocarbons, branched saturated hydrocarbons. or linear and branched saturated hydrocarbons.
- 76. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one paraffin wax (b) comprises a mixture of linear and branched saturated hydrocarbons, and

wherein a content of linear saturated hydrocarbon is at least 40%-by-weight.

77. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one paraffin wax (b) comprises a mixture of linear and branched saturated hydrocarbons, and

wherein a content of linear saturated hydrocarbon is of from 55%-by-weight to 80%-by-weight.

78. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 75, wherein the linear saturated hydrocarbons comprise:

at least from 20 to 29 carbon atoms in an amount of from 10%-by-weight to 40%by-weight;

at least from 30 to 35 carbon atoms in an amount of from 20%-by-weight to 65%by-weight; and

at least from 36 to 42 carbon atoms in an amount of from 10%-by-weight to 50%by-weight.

- 79. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one paraffin wax (b) is present in the elastomeric composition in an amount of from 0.5 phr to 10 phr.
- 80. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one paraffin wax (b) is present in the elastomeric composition in an amount of from 1.5 phr to 4 phr.
- 81. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer (a) has a glass transition temperature (T_o) below 20° C.
- 82. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 81, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer (a) comprises one or more of: cis-1,4-polyisoprene; 3,4-polyisoprene; polybutadiene; optionally halogenated isoprene/isobutene copolymers;

1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; styrene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; styrene/lsoprene/1,3-butadiene copolymers; and styrene/1,3-butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers.

- 83. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises at least one elastomeric polymer of one or more monoolefins with an olefinic comonomer or derivatives thereof (a').
- 84. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 83, wherein the at least one elastomeric polymer (a') comprises one or more of: ethylene/propylene copolymers (EPR) or ethylene/propylene/diene copolymers (EPDM); polyisobutene; butyl rubbers; and halobutyl rubbers.
- 85. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 48, wherein at least one reinforcing filler is present in the elastomeric composition in an amount of between 0.1 phr and 120 phr.
- (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 85, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises carbon black.
- 87. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 85, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises silica.

- 88. (Currently Amended) An elastomeric composition, comprising:
- (a) at least one diene elastomeric polymer;
- (b) at least one paraffin wax; and
- (c) at least one polymer of at least one C₂-C₂₄ α-olefin:

wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight not higher than 10,000; and

wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a degree of branching:

from 1 mol % to 20 mol % of methyl groups, relative to the total number of carbon atoms; and

from 80 mol % to 99 mol % of methylene groups, relative to the total number of carbon atoms.

- 89. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 88, wherein the at least one diene elastomeric polymer (a) has a glass transition temperature (T_9) below 20° C.
- 90. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 88, wherein the at least one paraffin wax (b) comprises linear saturated hydrocarbons, branched saturated hydrocarbons, or linear and branched saturated hydrocarbons.
- 91. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 88, wherein the at least one polymer (c) is a polymer of at least one C_5 - C_{18} α -olefin.

- 92. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 88, wherein at least one reinforcing filler is present in an amount of between 0.1 phr and 120 phr.
- 93. (Previously Presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 92, wherein the at least one reinforcing filler comprises carbon black, silica, or carbon black and silica.
- 94. (Currently Amended) A crosslinked elastomeric manufactured product obtained by crosslinking an elastomeric composition, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises:
 - (a) at least one diene elastomeric polymer;
 - (b) at least one paraffin wax; and
 - (c) at least one polymer of at least one C_3 - C_{24} α -olefin; and wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a number average molecular weight not

higher than 10,000; and

wherein the at least one polymer (c) has a degree of branching:

from 1 mol % to 20 mol % of methyl groups, relative to the total number of carbon atoms; and

from 80 mol % to 99 mol % of methylene groups, relative to the total number of carbon atoms.